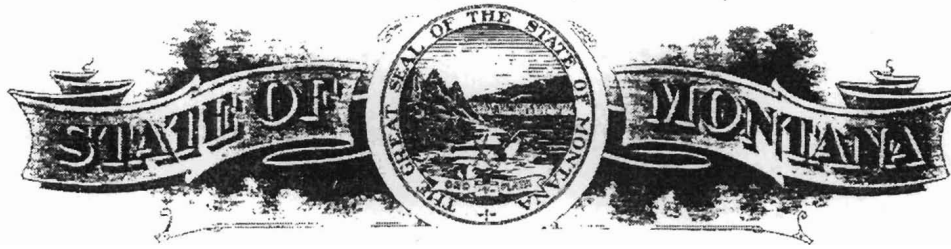


IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE



PROCLAMATION OF CLEMENCY FOR MONTANANS CONVICTED UNDER THE MONTANA SEDITION ACT IN 1918-1919

WHEREAS, in America, free speech is a fundamental right in times of war and peace alike; and

WHEREAS, the emotional fervor surrounding the United States' entry into the first World War led to the enactment of the Montana Sedition Act of 1918, which made a negative utterance alone, about America, its leaders or its wartime policies, grounds for imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, in 1918 and 1919, 78 men and women in Montana were imprisoned or fined under the Sedition Act for making remarks critical of America, the President, the Government, the Flag, the War and other subjects; and

WHEREAS, these convictions not only violated basic American rights of speech and dissent but were obtained in some cases by means of entrapment or with the unstated intention of persecuting immigrants, organized laborers and other groups; and

WHEREAS, though these 78 individuals are now deceased, in the 88 years since these prosecutions were brought the State of Montana has never formally redressed the injustice; and

WHEREAS, those convicted for similar offenses under a 1917 federal law were all subsequently pardoned by Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, equity, justice and respect for human rights decree that these 78 persons be fully absolved and their names cleared.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, by this proclamation do hereby pardon all individuals from Sedition alleged to have been committed during 1918-1919 under the Montana Sedition Act, 1918 Mont. Laws Ch. 11, § 1, and from the conviction of Sedition and from all sentences, judgments and executions thereon.

Dated at Helena, Montana, this 3rd day of May, 2006.



Signed: _____

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Attest: _____

for Brad Johnson, Secretary of State